

CHAPTER TEN

Seek Ye Learning

A human soul without education, Joseph Addison once wrote, is like marble in the quarry, which shows none of its inherent beauties till the skill of the polisher fetches out the colors, makes the surface shine, and discovers every ornamental cloud, spot and vein that runs through the body of it.

The dream of providing this polishing touch of life through good schools was ever-present with the early settlers of Heber City. As detailed in Chapter 6 they built early in their settlement a small, log school and then worked together to provide better one-room schools, then graded schools and finally the educational "star in their crown," the Wasatch High School.

As precious as education was to the early settlers, it still had to take second place to the winning of food from the earth to sustain life. Early educational efforts flourished during winter months when agricultural activity could easily be handled by the "older folks." Spring and summer schooling and learning in the fall was largely behind a plow and in the fields.

Heber's first school, the 20 by 40 foot, one-room building that served also as a Church house and community building, was located on the corner of 3rd North and 2nd West. A fireplace in each end of the building provided the only heat, and students would take turns getting warm as part of the class recited to the teacher and the other half studied around the fires. The building's dirt roof leaked so badly at times that school had to be discontinued while repairs were made.

By 1867 the Utah Territorial Legislature had passed an act that permitted communities, by a majority vote of the taxpayers, to maintain free schools by taxation. Until this time teachers had usually boarded at the homes of pupils and collected salaries in produce. Now, a new era for teachers and school building construction lay ahead.

A one-room rock school building was soon built across the street from the first log school, and then another one-room building, known as the East School, was built at 2nd North and 3rd East, where the First-Sixth Ward Chapel now stands.

Heber's next school building was the old "Sleepy Hollow" school, a one-room rock building in the southwest part of town at 2nd West and 3rd South.

One of the most forward looking steps in education came in 1892 when Henry Aird, a former teacher in the old rock East School, and

ard Jones Sr., Joseph Moulton, Robert and William Lindsay, William Rasband and Richard Jones Jr.

Willard Carroll, president of the group in 1877, noted that Church President Brigham Young had directed the formation throughout the Church of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association, and moved that this group become part of this new Church organization. The membership voted unanimously in favor of the merger and the literary society continued its activities through the mutual program.

On December 6, 1895 the Shakespearian Club of Heber was formed with a membership of 26, an honor roll of three and a life-member list of four. The club, which continues today, is the second oldest club for women in Utah. It was organized as an educational and social unit and operates today under the same constitution and by-laws which its founders established.

Mary Willis was chosen as the first president with Lovisa Alexander, vice president and Eliza J. Rasband secretary and treasurer.

In 1898 the club became affiliated with the Utah Federated Clubs for Women, and Mrs. Emma Hatch Wheritt later served as district president of this state federation.

Charter members of the club included Eliza J. Rasband, Mary Willis, Sophia Luke, Minnie A. Cummings, Eva McDonald, Ruth Hatch, Mary Ann Fisher, Mary Glandville, Fedelia Luke, Lovisa Alexander, Fannie Clyde, Sarah Clotworthy, Elizabeth McDonald, Lillian Southworth, Teenie Smithie, Emily Aird, Alice R. Jones and Jane Hatch.

A lodge of the American Order of United Workmen was organized in Heber in the 1890's and included many of the prominent residents. The organization was an insurance lodge which extended through Wyoming, Montana, Idaho and Utah. If a member traveled through another part of the country and needed assistance he could always call on members of the lodge who were pledged to give aid when needed. Wives of the members had an auxiliary organization known as the Degree of Honor.

Members in Heber included Henry M. Aird, John W. Aird, John E. Austin, William Buys, Edward Buys, George Barzee, William Baxter, William Edward Buys, C. H. Bishop, Joseph Campbell, Henry Cluff, J. M. (Dick) Duke, David Fisher, Andrew Fisher, Charles H. Giles, Daniel Griffith, J. D. Harris, G. S. Hayes, James Lindsay, Andrew Lindsay, W. M. Murdock, Thomas Parry, Archie Sellers, Sr., John Southworth, John A. Simpson, Harry A. Sharp, John Turner, Thomas S. Watson, T. H. Watson, Harry F. Watson, William S. Wills, William Wheable, Thomas Wilson, C. H. West, Dr. W. R. Wheritt and William Bowman.

A chapter of the Business and Professional Women's Club was organized in Heber on April 19, 1924 with a large roster of members.

Clara Clawson, membership chairman of the club for Utah, organized